CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 10 SEPTEMBER 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN TEXTS OF THE FINAL MEMORANDUM OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE "XXI CENTURY - TOWARDS A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE WORLD" HELD ON 29-31 AUGUST 2001 IN ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

I have the honour to forward to you the Final Memorandum of the International Conference "XXI century - Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World", held on August 29-31, 2001, in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

I would be grateful if this Memorandum could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) N. DANENOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the
Republic of Kazakhstan

GE.01-62587

ENG

Final Memorandum
of the International Conference
"XXI Century – Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World"

The world at the down of the 21st century is dynamic and heterogeneous. It is becoming a more globalized society, in which fundamental shifts are taking place and there are unforeseen opportunities for development. But progress comes with uncertainties and risks.

Today, we are faced with new challenges for global and regional security. At the same time, nuclear weapons, as with other weapons of mass destruction, continue to pose the most serious dangers for humanity.

In this context, the dissolution of the USSR and the threat of the spread of nuclear weapons was a turning point for the international community and a crucial test for those newly independent states that inherited nuclear weapons.

As a result of historical circumstances, Kazakhstan became a de facto nuclear power, but survived this test having made an historical choice in favor of a denuclearized status. This step demonstrated the political maturity and wisdom of the Kazakhstani leadership, which recognized its responsibility for the security of the counrty, the region, and the world. The closing of the Semipalatinsk test site, accession to the START agreement and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty became important milestones in the establishment of Kazakhstan as a sovereign state. During its 10 years of independence, Kazakhstan has made a considerable effort to strengthen its role as one of key countries in the field of nuclear disarmament.

We note with satisfaction the significant progress in the work of creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia. The creation of such zone will facilitate the strengthening of the global nuclear nonproliferation regime as well as regional security.

Despite differences in political views and the varying levels of economic development and technological possibilities in their countries, the participants in this conference are united in their eagerness to create a safer world and to make the process of nonproliferation irreversible. We believe in the notion that humanity should use its scientific-technological potential not for mutual threats or the destruction of each another, but instead in the service of further peaceful development, progress, and human prosperity.

Towards the fulfillment of these purposes, we call for the support of governments, the international community, and all those who value peace and security.